

WE CLAIM:

1. A packaged garment defining a waist opening and a leg opening, the garment comprising,

a front region comprising a front panel and defining a front waist edge, a back region comprising a back panel and defining a back waist edge, and a crotch region connecting the front and back regions;

a front side panel extending transversely from a side of the front panel;

a back side panel extending transversely from a side of the back panel;

wherein the front side panel is connected to the back side panel to form a prefastened, refastenable seam, the refastenable seam comprising a fastening component;

wherein the fastening component lies in a plane approximately perpendicular to a plane in which the front panel lies.

2. The garment of claim 1 wherein the refastenable seam is formed between a body-facing surface of the front side panel and a clothing-facing surface of the back side panel.

3. The garment of claim 2 wherein the front side panel is folded over a distal edge of the back side panel.

4. The garment of claim 2 wherein the fastening component is permanently bonded to the back side panel.

5. The garment of claim 1 wherein the refastenable seam is formed between a clothing-facing surface of the front side panel and a body-facing surface of the back side panel.

6. The garment of claim 5 wherein the back side panel is folded over a distal edge of the front side panel.

7. The garment of claim 5 wherein the fastening component is permanently bonded to the front side panel.

8. The garment of claim 1 wherein the fastening component is engaged with a mating fastening component, wherein the mating fastening component is integral with a side panel.

9. The garment of claim 1 wherein the front and back side panels are bonded to the front and back panels, respectively.

10. The garment of claim 1 wherein the fastening component extends transversely outward from a side panel.

11. A packaged garment having a waist opening and two leg openings, the garment comprising:

a front region comprising a front panel and defining a front waist edge, a back region comprising a back panel and defining a back waist edge, and a crotch region connecting the front and back regions;

first and second front side panels extending transversely from respective sides of the front panel, each front side panel having a body facing surface and a clothing facing surface;

first and second back side panels extending transversely from respective sides of the back panel, each back side panel having a body facing surface and a clothing facing surface;

wherein the first front side panel is connected to the first back side panel to form a first prefastened, refastenable seam, the first refastenable seam comprising a first fastening component;

the second front side panel is connected to the second back side panel to form a second prefastened, refastenable seam, the second refastenable seam comprising a second fastening component;

wherein the first and second fastening components lie in first and second planes, the first and second planes being approximately perpendicular to a plane in which the front panel lies.

12. The garment of claim 11 further wherein:

the first and second front side panels define first and second front side panel distal edges, respectively, the first and second front side panel distal edges being approximately perpendicular to the front waist edge; and

the first and second back side panels define first and second back side panel distal edges, respectively, the first and second back side panel distal edges being approximately perpendicular to the back waist edge,

wherein a transverse distance between the first and second front side panel distal edges is equal to a transverse distance between the first and second back side panel distal edges.

13. The garment of claim 11, further wherein:

the first and second front side panels define first and second front side panel distal edges, respectively, the first and second front side panel distal edges being approximately perpendicular to the front waist edge; and

the first and second back side panels define first and second back side panel distal edges, respectively, the first and second back side panel distal edges being approximately perpendicular to the back waist edge,

wherein a transverse distance between the first and second front side panel distal edges is less than a transverse distance between the first and second back side panel distal edges.

14. The garment of claim 11 wherein the first refastenable seam is formed between the body-facing surface of the first front side panel and the clothing-facing surface of the first back side panel, and the second refastenable seam is formed between the body-facing surface of the second front side panel and the clothing-facing surface of the second back side panel.

15. The garment of claim 14 wherein the first front side panel is folded over a distal edge of the first back side panel, and the second front side panel is folded over a distal edge of the second back side panel.

16. The garment of claim 11 wherein the first refastenable seam is formed between the clothing-facing surface of the first front side panel and the body-facing surface of the first back side panel, and the second refastenable seam is formed between the clothing-facing surface of the second front side panel and the body-facing surface of the second back side panel.

17. The garment of claim 16 wherein the first back side panel is folded over a distal edge of the first front side panel, and the second back side panel is folded over a distal edge of the second front side panel.

18. A packaged garment having a waist opening and a leg opening, the garment comprising,

a front region comprising a front panel and defining a front waist edge, a back region comprising a back panel and defining a back waist edge, and a crotch region connecting the front and back regions;

a front side panel extending transversely from a side of the front panel, the front side panel having a body facing surface and a clothing facing surface;

a back side panel extending transversely from a side of the back panel, the back side panel having a body facing surface and a clothing facing surface;

wherein the front side panel is connected to the back side panel to form a prefastened, refastenable seam, the refastenable seam comprising a fastening component,

wherein the fastening component lies in a plane approximately parallel to a plane in which an adjacent enclosure side wall lies.

19. A package of prefastened, refastenable garments, comprising:

a generally polyhedral enclosure composed of a flexible material surrounding a plurality of prefastened, refastenable garments, the polyhedral enclosure comprising a pair of side walls, a pair of end walls, a top wall, and a bottom wall,

wherein each of the plurality of garments comprises:

a front region comprising a front panel and defining a front waist edge, a back region comprising a back panel and defining a back waist edge, and a crotch region connecting the front and back regions;

a front side panel extending transversely from a side of the front panel;

a back side panel extending transversely from a side of the back panel;

wherein the front side panel is connected to the back side panel to form a prefastened, refastenable seam, the refastenable seam comprising a fastening component;

wherein the fastening component lies in a plane approximately perpendicular to a plane in which the front region lies, and in a plane approximately parallel to a plane in which an adjacent side wall lies.

20. The package of claim 19, further comprising an end garment adjacent one of the end walls, wherein the end garment comprises:

an end garment front region comprising an end garment front panel, an end garment back region comprising an end garment back panel, and an end garment crotch region connecting the end garment front and end garment back regions;

an end garment front side panel extending transversely from a side of the end garment front panel;

an end garment back side panel extending transversely from a side of the end garment back panel;

wherein the end garment front side panel is connected to the end garment back side panel to form an end garment refastenable seam, the end garment refastenable seam comprising an end garment fastening component;

wherein the end garment fastening component lies in a plane approximately parallel to a plane in which the end garment front panel lies.

21. The package of claim 20, wherein the end garment fastening component lies in a plane approximately parallel to a plane in which an end wall adjacent to the end garment lies.

22. A package of prefastened, refastenable pant-like disposable garments, comprising:

a generally polyhedral enclosure composed of a flexible material surrounding a plurality of prefastened, refastenable disposable garments, the polyhedral enclosure comprising a pair of side walls, a pair of end walls, a top wall, and a bottom wall, wherein each garment comprises front and back regions, a crotch region connection the front and back regions, and at a fastening component connecting the front and back regions to place each of the plurality of garments in a prefastened, pant-like configuration;

wherein each fastening component lies in a plane which is approximately parallel to a plane occupied by an adjacent enclosure wall.